

# The Indianapolis Times

EARLE E. MARTIN, Editor-in-Chief  
FELIX F. BRUNER, Acting Editor

ROY W. HOWARD, President  
WM. A. MAYBORN, Bus. Mgr.

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## THE BATTLE IS ON

**T**HE fight against exorbitant telephone rates is on. The public service commission is battling in the interest of the people against a corporation seeking to squeeze two profits from the business concerns and private telephone users of Indianapolis.

Business men are up in arms. The Chamber of Commerce and the Merchants Association are in the fight in the interest of all the people.

This fight should continue until a showdown is reached. It should continue until we know once and for all whether the public has any control over a monopoly dealing in a necessity, or whether such a concern, having eliminated competition and the ordinary control of duly constituted officials, can rule according to its own sweet will.

The public service commission is planning an order to reduce the new measured service rate. The company probably will combat such an order. From this fight should develop a definite showdown.

Nothing should be left undone in carrying on the fight in behalf of the public. The commission, if its orders are not permitted to stick, should not hesitate to appeal its case to the Supreme Court of the United States. Money spent in such a fight is money well spent.

Thousands for the establishment of the rights of the people, but not one cent for double profits for the telephone trust.

## ANOTHER FOURTH OF JULY

**O**NE HUNDRED and forty-eight years ago today a group of men who believed, what Woodrow Wilson later uttered, that "the right is more precious than peace," signed a document defying King George of England to do his worst and started this country on its way as an independent nation. It was an experiment in independence. It was followed some years later by the Constitution, an experiment in self-government.

We wonder today, as we again celebrate the signing of that impudent document, what the fathers of our country would think if they could see us today. Would they be proud of the manner in which their ideas and ideals have been carried out, or would they be grieved at our perversion of their original intentions. We wonder.

Recently in Cleveland there was a demonstration of the self-government that they planned. A candidate picked by a few men in a back room because he represented their particular ideas of a man who would give them what they wanted was nominated. In New York we have a political convention turned into a war between religions.

What would the signers of the Declaration of Independence have thought of a religious fight in American politics? What would they have thought of such a controversy in a country the very foundations of which rest on the right of freedom of worship?

The American Government is an accumulation rather than a growth. It has become all cluttered up with selfish interests.

We know that this is not making the eagle scream in the accepted Fourth of July manner. But what is an anniversary if not a time to pause and take stock?

Perhaps we need a new Declaration of Independence, declaring that we will be free from all the rubbish that has accumulated in our national home since the original Declaration was signed. Let's get back to fundamentals.

## BOB WILL BE WELCOME

**W**ITH a middle of the road platform and convention on dead center, the Democrats offer little hope of an open door to the host of American voters who seek to get definitely away—far away—from colorless, machine-ridden, so-called two-party politics.

Two distinct parties, with definite and opposite theories of government are normal and necessary. So far, they do not exist.

The two old parties are as like as peas in a pod. But there must be, and will be a whole-hearted liberal and idealistic protest vote no matter who is for it, no matter who is against it. This is an outstanding fact of this campaign year.

Under the circumstances, the expected La Follette candidacy is certain to be welcomed by the disgusted independent voters of both old parties with an enthusiasm that will keep the professional politicians guessing hard between now and election day—and maybe guessing harder afterward.

Senator La Follette needs no introduction, no ponderous convention to nominate him, no formally written platform to set forth his views.

After his years of a fearless and consistent service at Washington he himself needs nothing. It is a large body of the American people who need and look forward to an opportunity of voting for him, and the things he stands for.

Considering the situation that this country is in today, considering the low ebb to which their job-holding leaders and campaign contributors have brought the honor and reputations of the two major parties this newspaper recognizes the need of a new party such as would be crystallized in the La Follette candidacy.

This newspaper is not afraid of a single one of the planks in the Wisconsin La Follette platform. At least we do know that not one of them was dictated or revised by Wall Street or any other form of invisible government.

AN EASTERN song writer has been sent to jail, but it wasn't justice, for he was not the yes-banana fellow.

## The Art of Doing Proper Thing

Our Washington Bureau's latest bulletin offering, TRAVEL ETIQUETTE, is filled with the answers to the questions you want answered on the "proper thing to do" under all circumstances when traveling. The etiquette of the train, of the ship, of the hotel—all are covered. If you wish a copy of this bulletin, fill out and mail as directed the coupon below:

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## ROMANCE IS TAKEN OUT OF RIVER

Modern Methods Replace Picturesque Steamboat Transportation.

By GEORGE BRITT

**S**OME of the ghostly timbers of the Robert E. Lee and the Natchez probably shiver to this day in their muddy graves when the newcomers puff up and down the river.

But romance is not so apparent as when planters from broad verandas used to watch slim, white packet boats come racing round the bend. "What is being done now on the Mississippi River," says Theodore Brent, manager of the barge line, "is as romantic as railroading—and no more so."

"Its facilities are as practical as those of the best organized railroad. Its methods are aimed at applying the best in railroad practice to transportation by water."

• Cranes Replace Stevedores

The picturesque crews of stevedores and deckhands which used to put color and song into the landings along the river have been crowded out, too. In their places are giant concrete wharf barges or permanent docks, equipped with cranes and tracks, for quick, mechanical loading and unloading.

In exchange for the traditional picturesque, the Federal barge line gives efficient, businesslike common carrier service. It has reconquered the river from a mere drainage ditch into a highway.

Even old "Steamboat Bill" and his mates warmed up to the newcomers when they saw them get behind a fleet of steel barges and walk off with them, 7,000 tons upstream or 15,000 tons downstream.

The Federal barge line was con-

## In New York

By STEVE HANNAGAN  
NEW YORK, July 4.—There is a touch of the open spaces in the pitiful summer life of better-living New Yorkers, who crowd into apartments like bees in a hive.

It is to be seen in their "back yards," the valleys buried deep in the recesses of their sky-shooting abodes. As I write this I am overlooking the large court of an entire city block composed of hotels and large apartment buildings.

Checker-boarded below are grass plots, a few feet wide, separated by high board fences. There is one tree synthetically green in the sunless life it leads.

The ground floor patrons of these buildings also have the use of the "back yard." They vie in decorating them and in keeping flowers in bloom during the warm months. Patrons on floors higher up beg for the opportunity to go below and dabble pale and anemic hands in mother earth's garden.

On each landing of the staircase array of buildings there are roof gardens, oftentimes only a few feet in length and breadth. Flower boxes and summer furniture decorate them. Lucky tenants occupying them spend much of their spare time there, envied by luckless tenants who have a seat at an open window as a summer porch.

The tenants higher up watch with interest the progress of vegetation in the "back yards" below.

There is wastefulness in the gaze of many as they look upon the scene—a wastefulness caused by reminiscences of this beautiful season in Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, and other open States, from where the majority of these folks came.

## A Thought

It is more blessed to give than to receive.—Acts 20:35.

In this world, it is not what we take up, but what we give up, that makes us rich.—Beecher.

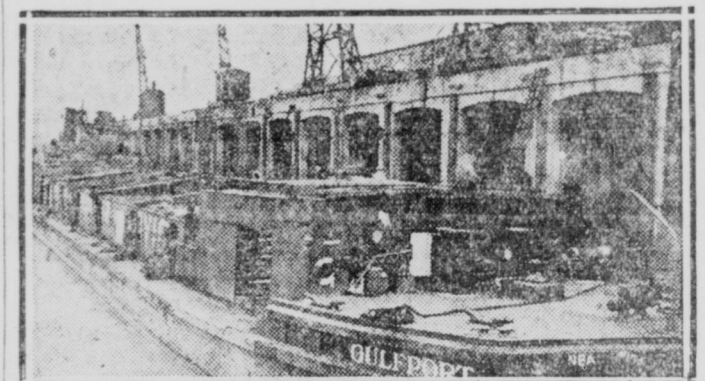
## One for the Collector

"Look 'ere, sir, I'm tired o' climb-  
in' up all these stairs week after week to collect this bill."

"Well, I've good news for you—I'm moving down to the basement tomorrow!"—Punch.



THE OLD WAY OF LOADING BOATS ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI. A GANG OF ROUSTABOUTS SWARMING OVER THE GANGPLANK WITH THEIR LOADS.



THE NEW WAY OF LOADING. A GIANT CRANE ON THE MUNICIPAL DOCKS IN ST. LOUIS LOADING THE SELF-PROPELLED BARGE GULFPORT OF THE FEDERAL BARGE LINE.



MODERN TOWBOAT AND ITS STRING OF BARGES IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AT MEMPHIS.

ceived as a war measure and started in September, 1918, with a make-shift fleet. Now it is operating about ten towboats, two self-propelled barges and more than fifty cargo barges, most of them of 2,000 tons and some of 3,000 tons capacity. It maintains a year-around schedule between New Orleans and Cairo, Ill., and between St. Louis and Cairo except during the frozen-up months. Cooperation with hostile railroads has been effected to obtain a connecting, feeder service. Boats leaving St. Louis on Friday evenings reach New Orleans, 1,154 miles by water, on the following Wednesday night. Dispatching is by wireless, each towboat reporting its position every three hours.

## Big Saving to Shipper

Last year the barge line carried 227,511 tons of freight southbound, and 267,604 tons northbound. The charge is approximately 80 per cent of railroad rates. Saving to the shipper is estimated at an average of \$1.35 a ton.

Three principles have guided the promoters of the barge line:

That rail and highway facilities are insufficient to meet transportation needs.

That water-borne commerce is cheaper, as dependable and more desirable for certain commodities.

That as the whole people pay taxes for the waterways, all are entitled to the cheaper transportation whether they live on the river bank or inland.

It was an experiment on the start, according to Col. T. Q. Ashburn, chief of the inland and coastwise waterways service. But it has proved that millions spent to make the lower Mississippi navigable were not wasted.

**Sensitive**  
A young woman of heroic build met a man who had known her father and mother. As he gazed at this plump Juno the light of memory came into his eyes. "Let me see," he mused, "which side of the house do you resemble most?" "Sir," she cried, "I don't resemble the side of any house."—Ex.

## Mother's Shoe Dealer

"This shoe pinches my joint."  
"Sorry, madam, but all the joints in town are pinched,"—American Legion Weekly.

## AMERICANS AT MERCY OF CABLES

Activities in This Country Garbled in Eastern Papers.

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS.

**W**ASHINGTON, July 4.—As the Japanese exclusion and other acts of the United States.

The United States Government can communicate with the people of the Far East—now when peace or war in the Pacific is being decided.

Dangerously distorted news is being circulated by foreign subsidized news agencies throughout China and other parts of the Far East bearing on Japanese exclusion and other acts of the United States.

Because there is no American-controlled facility for the quick transmission of American news, England, Japan, France and Italy beat us to the spot with their versions of everything that happens, so by the time our own version arrives it is generally "old stuff" and is not printed.

## Incident Is Cited

But there is danger in the situation.

One incident, which I personally watched, will show what I mean.

In China just before the Washington Conference of 1921, the whole country was inflamed over a Japanese press association report to the effect that President Harding's Cabinet had discussed the "internationalization" of China—in plain English, international receivership and control.

The second-day story had it that Secretary Hoover had been the one to propose this thing, though he had not done so officially at a cabinet meeting.

A third-day story was that Secretary Hoover had suggested a receivership for China, not officially, but at a luncheon where he had spoken.

The fourth-day admitted it was not Secretary Hoover, but a "high official" who had suggested the thing informally and privately.

## Damage Is Done

Then came a denial from America that anybody had offered such a suggestion. But the damage was done. Few saw the denial. Millions had the scare-head items which had come first.

Reuters cables from London, columns of world news daily for distribution throughout the Far East. Through an arrangement with the British government, these cables cost Reuters little or nothing. They serve to keep Britain prominently before the public in that part of the world and in precisely the light she wishes to appear.

These cables contain much American news, particularly what the Government in Washington is doing, and of course with a British slant.

Havas is doing precisely the same thing for France, Kokusai for Japan and Stefani for Italy.

America rightly refuses to have a subsidized press association. But neither is a means provided for independent news agencies in the United States, at their own expense, to tell Uncle Sam's story to orientals.

Yet when relations between this country and the Far East are so delicate as they are now, a few incidents, highly colored to suit sinister foreign purposes and craftily circulated, might well plunge us into war.

## Our Heritage

By HAL COCHRAN.

Out in the open, today folks are groggy!

For sunshine and fresh air and rest.

A picnic affray is the call of the day And with freedom we all appear blest.

Our spirit increases and worry-time ceases;

We leisurely turn out to play. And, just 'cause we dare to, we do what we care to.

For that is the call of the day.

Through long years of schooling, we've conquered self-ruling; Old Glory is boldly unfurled.

The free breezes blow it and how well we know it

Has gained the respect of the world.

It isn't surprising that we're realizing

From cities 'way out to the sticks, The world can't enslave us; 'twas freedom it gave us.

In Seventeen Seventy-Six, (Copyright, 1924, NEA Service, Inc.)

## Sounding Her Dad

"I do not require that the man who marries my daughter shall be rich. All I ask is that he be able to keep out of debt."  
"Would you consider a man in debt who borrows money from his father-in-law?"—Boston Transcript.

## The Glorious Fourth



## K. K. WIZARD SHUNS THE SPOTLIGHT

Bossert of Indiana, However, Is Somewhat More Sociable.

By HARRY B. HUNT

**N**EW YORK, July 4.—One distinguished visitor to New York during the Democratic convention who didn't try to get special passes to Madison Square Garden and who evaded, rather than sought, the spotlight, was Hiram W. Evans, imperial wizard of the Ku-Klux Klan.

Evans, visiting the convention city incognito, registering as one of a "party" with friends from Washington, D. C., was more completely shrouded from sight during the convention than he would have been wearing the cap and gown of his mystic order.

But he kept in close touch with the proceedings by radio, particularly during the fight to name the Klan specifically in the platform denunciation of organizations fostering religious and racial hatreds.

Evans, who is a dentist and once polled teeth down in Texas for a living, occupied a suite of five rooms at an uptown skyscraper hotel close to the center of political activities.

Not so exclusive in his clanishness was Walter Bossert, Klan grand dragon of Indiana and imperial organizer for the Kluxers in twenty other States.

While he didn't attempt to get shummy with the Al Smith delegates, nor even call on Pettengill of Maine or Quigley of Massachusetts to convert them to his opinion of the Klan as an institution, he did browse about a bit and give interested New Yorkers an opportunity to see just what a real live, flesh-and-blood Klansman looks like.

They saw, in Bossert, a smiling,

## Tom Sims Says

Some men stay away so much that when they do eat at home they look for the menu.

No Fourth of July is complete without somebody calling our flag "The colors that never run."

Every auto accident is caused by jay walkers or jay drivers.

We have our ups and downs. An optimist looks forward to the ups and a pessimist to the downs.

Justice is blind, but most of us think we are eye doctors.

Some college has been giving the thermometer a few honorary degrees.

Our idea of fun would be being one of these mammals frozen in the ice ten million years ago.

Men are known by the company they keep; women by the clothes they keep on wearing.

June is gone and those who managed to stay single through it are fairly safe for another eleven months.

Collectors usually haunt a man when the ghost walks at the office.

A common dog is the safest watch dog. Get a good dog and some burglar is liable to steal him.

No matter how old a gas meter gets, it is always anxious to run.

The demand for people who are polite exceeds the supply.

Too many tired business men work themselves into heart failure trying to avoid business failure.

They captured 300 barrels of beer in Philadelphia. Had barrels of fun.

In Los Angeles, a man pawned his wife's gold teeth, and corn-on-the-cob ripe, too.

International Nickel Company says business is good, but our nickels don't seem to be working very hard.

The man who designed a New York pipe organ having 640 stops must have been an auto mechanic.

## Ask The Times

You can get an answer to any question of fact or information by writing to the Indianapolis Times, Washington Bureau, 1322 New York Ave., Washington, D. C., enclosing 2 cents in stamps or reply. Medical, legal and marital advice cannot be given, nor can extended research be undertaken. All other questions will receive a personal reply. Unsigned requests cannot be answered. All letters are confidential.—Editor

When did Harry Thaw shoot Stanford White?

June 25, 1905.

How many bones has the skeleton of a whale?

About 200.

What is the speed of an electric locomotive?

In recent tests at Erie, Pa., an electric locomotive attained a speed of 105 miles an hour.

Did George Washington have to take out naturalization papers?

No. As a matter of fact the first general immigration law was not enacted until 1882, many years after the death of Washington, which occurred in 1799.

How many miles of railroad are there in the United States?

235,234.

## Jewelry for Your Vacation



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